

Message Text

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TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

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FOR SCHAUFLE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, RH

SUBJECT:PRESS ITEMS ON GENEVA CONFERENCE ON RHODESIA

1. JOHN BURNS WRITES IN OCTOBER 31 NEW YORK TIMES THAT BRITISH OFFICIALS CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC THAT DEADLOCK IN GENEVA TALKS CAN BE AVERTED. ALTHOUGH UK DETERMINED NOT TO ASSUME CONTROL OF RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT DURING TRANSITION PERIOD, BURNS REPORTS THAT BRITISH SOURCES HAVE BROACHED IDEA OF COMMONWEALTH PEACE-KEEPING FORCE, ORIGINALLY SUGGESTED AT 1973 COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE IN OTTAWA. BRITISH, ACCORDING TO BURNS, BELIEVE IDEA COULD HAVE VALUE IF COMMONWEALTH MEMBERS CAN AGREE ON COMPOSITION OF FORCE, BUT IDEA HAS NOT YET BEEN PRESENTED TO RHODESIAN PARTIES. BURNS ALSO REPORTS THAT BRITISH HAVE NOT CATEGORICALLY RULED OUT A ROLE IN TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT, INDICATING THAT DECISION WILL HAVE TO BE MADE BY BRITISH CABINET.

2. OTTAWAY IN OCTOBER 31 WASHINGTON POST REPORTS UK BELIEF THAT SMITH MUST YIELD ON SEVERAL POINTS IF NEGOTIA-
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TIONS ARE TO SUCCEED. OTTAWAY NOTES EXPECTATION AMONG

OBSERVERS IN GENEVA THAT ASST. SECRETARY SCHAUFELLE WILL MEET WITH SMITH TO DISCUSS SETTLEMENT PLAN AND SMITH'S STATEMENT TO PRESS THAT SCHAUFELLE'S PRESENCE IN GENEVA PRESUMABLY FOR PURPOSE OF CLARIFYING AMBIGUITIES SURROUND-
ING SO-CALLED KISSINGER PROPOSALS.

3. IN NOVEMBER 1 NEW YORK TIMES, BERNARD WEINRAUB WRITES THAT U.S., ACCORDING TO DIPLOMATIC SOURCES IN GENEVA, IS CONVINCED THAT BRITAIN MUST PLAY PIVOTAL ROLE IN TRANSITION TO MAJORITY RULE OR FACE INEVITABLE ESCALATION OF THE GUERRILLA WAR. U.S. POSITION THUS REINFORCES THAT OF FOUR AFRICAN NATIONALIST DELEGATIONS. THE U.S., SAYS WEINRAUB, HAS NOT EXPRESSED THIS VIEW DIRECTLY TO PM CALLAGHAN OR CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN RICHARD, BELIEVING THAT EVENTS WILL INEXORABLY FORCE BRITISH CABINET TO ACCEPT A MORE ACTIVE ROLE. ACCORDING TO WEINRAUB, DISCUSSIONS IN GENEVA NOW CENTERING ON A BRITON SERVING EITHER AS GOVERNOR GENERAL OR AS CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE IN THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT. HE ALSO NOTES CRITICISM OF RICHARD FROM CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS, INCLUDING BISHOP MUZOREWA, OVER "LEISURELY" PACE OF NEGOTIATIONS.

4. ROBIN WRIGHT IN SPECIAL TO NOVEMBER 1 WASHINGTON POST REPORTS THAT RHODESIAN SECURITY FORCES OVER WEEKEND LAUNCHED MAJOR "HOT PURSUIT" RAID INTO MOZAMBIQUE, THE FIRST PUBLICLY ACKNOWLEDGED BY RHODESIAN AUTHORITIES SINCE ATTACK ON NYAZONIA CAMP IN AUGUST. WRIGHT CITES RAID, BELIEVED TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN VICINITY OF UMTALI, AS INDICATION OF RHODESIAN CONCERN OVER INTENSIFIED GUERRILLA ACTIVITY AND OF RHODESIAN DETERMINATION TO DEFY FURTHER EXTERNAL PRESSURES TO ACCELERATE TRANSFER OF POWER TO AFRICANS. INTENSIFIED WARFARE AND HARDENING OF POSITIONS ON BOTH SIDES COULD, ACCORDING TO WRIGHT, HAVE SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS SHOULD GENEVA TALKS COLLAPSE. MEANWHILE, RHODESIANS ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY DESPONDENT ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESS IN GENEVA AND FEAR THAT "HOT PURSUIT" RAIDS WILL PROVIDE INSURGENTS WITH EXCUSE FOR CALLING ON INCREASED OUTSIDE SUPPORT FROM SOVIETS. KISSINGER

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